

chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. What we saw there was heart-wrenching. We have heard the audio of children crying: “Mami, papi.”

Madam Speaker, it begs the question: Has our Nation lost its way? But nothing is as heart-wrenching as seeing children’s faces in person, kids who were just taken from the arms of their parents, and children in cages crying for their parents. This is child abuse.

Let’s be clear, Madam Speaker, this travesty could end today. Donald Trump could end this today by a single phone call.

To my Republican friends on the other side of the aisle, I simply say this: What happened to the party of family values? History will remember this moment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all Members to refrain from references to guests on the floor, and Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### NATION’S MORAL TRADITIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, it is difficult to find words after what has unfolded before our eyes and the eyes of the American people these last few days, and it has gotten worse the last few days.

So today, I rise in defense of children on this House floor to demand of this House and, more importantly, the Trump administration to end this cruel exploitation of children by separating them from their families, by tearing children from their moms, and what appears to be, no doubt, a very craven political tactic by President Trump to try to hold hostage children to get other draconian items done on his immigration bill.

This tactic is fueled by some very ugly things that the American people have to reject. It is fueled by bigotry. It is fueled by hatred. It is fueled by fearmongering and is now being fueled by the endangerment of children.

As a father, as a grandpa, I cannot believe how we are debasing our Nation’s moral traditions, how we are replacing our sacred values with autocratic comments and rhetoric from the President.

Mr. President, no more lies, no more child hostages. End this now. You can, and for our Nation’s sake and for the children’s sake, this needs to be done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ), my friend.

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, it is obvious that the administration doesn’t care about the welfare of immigrant children being separated from their parents, but they should at least care about what kind of long-term im-

pact they will have on all children, those currently living in the United States, documented or not, U.S. citizens or not.

We act like kids, all kids, don’t know what is going on, but they do. They might not watch CNN, MSNBC, or FOX, but they talk to their classmates, siblings, teachers, and caregivers. They are hearing that kids are being torn away from their parents. We have to ask ourselves: What are they thinking? What goes through their minds? Are the young ones thinking that they can be next?

I am not exaggerating because shortly after the election of Donald Trump, my nephew cried because he thought if my sister left the country—because she is a resident and not a U.S. citizen—that she would not be able to return. So we know that these kids are paying attention. Yes, we might not know for certain what they are all thinking, but what we do know is that this policy must end now.

This must stop for the immigrant children and for all our children so that they feel secure and safe where it is natural, where they feel loved, and that is with their parents.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), my good friend.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, what do you call a country that institutionalizes child abuse? Tragically, today you call that country the United States of America.

We have heard the children screaming. We have seen the images of children being told to go to sleep in cages. We know that children have been ripped from the breasts of nursing mothers and taken away, maybe never to be found to be reunited again.

As a mother, as a grandmother, I can’t stand it. Madam Speaker, can you stand it? Can this country stand it? What happens to the soul of America when we do this to children?

These parents have come with their children, fleeing violence; thinking they are coming to the land of the free, the home of the brave; thinking that they are going to be able to get asylum here in the United States of America or at least a chance to get asylum here and to be safe, finally, with their children. Instead, they are put in jail. They are put in prison.

I am here today with Bruce and Felix, children whose parents are in the gallery. They will go home tonight and sleep in a comfortable bed while thousands of children are put to sleep in cages.

I say to you, Mr. President: You can end this. This is your decision. Please, for the sake of our country, for the sake of the children, for the sake of families, end this now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

#### FAMILY SEPARATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, today, I brought with me two young people: Alcides Guandique, age 11, and Jose Guandique, age 13.

When I look at them, I think of 2 days ago when I visited the Trump detention center at the southern border in San Diego with Members and Leader PELOSI.

There we saw children torn from the arms of their parents under Trump’s zero-tolerance policy. We talked to the kids. We talked to the mental health counselors who told us that children are traumatized.

Most of them have come here with their parents because they were threatened with murder and rape by gangs in Central America and Mexico. But because of Trump’s policy of separation, these children have lost the one constant person in their lives.

As a psychologist, I took note when the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics visited detained kids. She said that, normally, kids like this are rambunctious and running around. But these kids are either screaming or crying or permanently quiet, and, in fact, that kind of toxic stress can permanently affect their brains.

There is only one way to describe it: government-sanctioned child abuse.

President Trump must own up to the policy that is his and his only. He has the power to stop this terrible cruelty. Instead, he is using these kids as a bargaining chip for \$25 billion for a border wall. It is time for him to stop. Stop ripping children from the arms of their parents. America is better than this.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding time, because I was compelled to come to the floor this morning to protest this cruel Trump GOP policy of family separation. This is a new policy.

Under past Presidents, when people come to this country legally asking for asylum because they are fleeing violence, domestic violence and gang violence in other countries, it is legal to request asylum in the United States of America. But under this new Trump policy that is so cruel and so horrible, he is trying to send a message to the world that this is an anti-immigrant country. We are not. He is trying to send a message to this world that children can be used for pawns. We are not going to let that happen.

President Trump and the GOP now want to use children as bargaining chips to try to exact concessions from Democrats on a very anti-immigrant, very cruel, very wasteful policy, and we need people across America to stand up and speak out.

The calls to my office are overwhelming. People think this family